

Valley Manufacturing Group's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

Within the Japanese American community, Dr. Nishimura has dedicated his efforts to groups such as the U.S.-Japan Business Council, Japanese Western U.S. Association, Japanese American Citizen League, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Asian Law Alliance, and the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Community Center in San Jose.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Dr. Ko Nishimura for his dedication to excellence in Silicon Valley. Through his tireless efforts, he has created a company grounded in sound principles and has dedicated his valuable time to better his community. I congratulate Dr. Koichi Nishimura on his tremendous achievements and wish him continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO KUNI HIRONAKA

### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Kuni Hironaka, one of the region's greatest champions for protecting and promoting Asian American hiring and promotion policies. Kuni played an instrumental role in securing the inclusion of Asian Americans as a protected minority in the affirmative action hiring and promotion process that is used by all federal civilian and military agencies. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Kuni's wonderful achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's most dedicated citizen leaders.

In 1967, Kuni realized that there were only three categories of protected minorities specified for the affirmative action program at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, these were: black, Hispanic, and women. Kuni was particularly alarmed by the fact that there were no Asian foremen on the maintenance side of the workforce and no Asian supervisors on the management side of the workforce. Many Asian employees failed to rise through the ranks despite their considerable experience and education.

Kuni's decision to explore the issue with the civilian Affirmative Action Officer was greeted with an unsatisfactory response. At the expense of jeopardizing his own employment and promotion future at McClellan Air Force Base, he boldly pursued the matter up the chain of command. In the course of standing for his principles and furthering the interests of Asian Americans in the workforce, Kuni would come to bring about change on a national level.

Kuni was appointed by Phil Hiroshima, President of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) at the time, to represent the JACL in meetings with top military officials to make the case that the affirmative action category should be expanded not only to include Asian Americans, but also Native Americans as well.

As a result of Kuni's remarkable dedication to the cause and a relentless pursuit of justice, the process of leaving Asian Americans out of the affirmative action hiring and promotion process was eventually examined by the United States Department of Defense. Ultimately, the term "oriental" was changed to

Asian American and Pacific Islanders and McClellan Air Force Base began to promote qualified Asian Americans within the maintenance and civil workforce.

Kuni's decision to challenge the establishment to bring about equal treatment for Asian Americans at McClellan Air Force Base had a resounding impact nationally. In addition to military installations, Asians Americans also came to be recognized as a protected minority by all federal civilian and military agencies. Kuni played a crucial role in paving the road for his and future generations of Asian Americans by breaking down the glass ceiling in the workplace.

Kuni truly represents the real spirit of community service. Throughout his life, Kuni has demonstrated the importance of giving back to his community. Kuni's commitment to helping others and improving his community is an inspiration and example to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Kuni Hironaka's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor his many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. His successes are unparalleled, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing my dear, dear friend Kuni continued success in all his future endeavors.

#### IN MEMORY OF DARYL THOMPSON

### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent; a person who was one of the most active, hard-working and dedicated educators in the State of Illinois—Mr. Daryl Thompson. Sadly, Mr. Thompson passed away on January 14, 2003.

Mr. Thompson began a 37-year career at Oswego High School in 1961. In his early years at Oswego High School, Mr. Thompson taught bookkeeping, business law, general business and typing, in addition to serving as the freshman basketball coach, faculty advisor to the school newspaper, and sponsor of the National Honor Society. And, after earning his certificate in education administration, Mr. Thompson was hired as Oswego High School's Vice Principal, and in 1974 was appointed Principal.

Throughout his years as an educator and administrator in Oswego, Mr. Thompson was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. To name a few, Mr. Thompson was awarded the Illinois State Board of Education's "Educator for Excellence in Education," Coca-Cola's Educator of the Month, and was selected by the Oswego Ledger-Sentinel as one of the top 50 people of the 20th Century to make a positive impact on Oswegoland. Furthermore, in 1997, a portion of Illinois Route 71, which passes by Oswego High School property, was named the honorary "Daryl Thompson Highway."

Moreover, Mr. Thompson served as a member of the Illinois High School Association's Legislative Commission for 12 years, served as Director of the Illinois Principals Association and was involved with the Oswego Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Nonetheless, we should also remember Mr. Thompson as a dedicated friend and mentor. He will be remembered for his keen sense of humor, thoughtful guidance and his genuine interest in the well-being of the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Daryl Thompson for his contributions to the Oswego school system and the many students, parents, teachers and fellow administrators whom he touched. His accomplishments deserve our praise and appreciation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2003, I was in my congressional district in Rhode Island and consequently I missed two votes.

Had I been here I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 35, and "yea" on rollcall No. 36.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

#### RECOGNITION OF CARLIN OWEN LESLIE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carlin Owen Leslie, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carlin has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Carlin also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the rank of senior patrol leader. He was also the first scout from Troop 314 to become a runner in the Order of the Arrow, and now serves as the head of the Troop 314 OA runners.

For his Eagle Scout project, Carlin restored and repainted a train caboose at Fox Hill Elementary School which is used by the school and the Missouri Department of Conservation as an education lab.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carlin Owen Leslie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.